Eastern States. There are no such reports regarding involvement of the CIA.

(b) Several steps have been taken to check the involvement of Pak ISI and the Bangladesh DGFI which, inter-alia, include increased surveillance along the borders, improved collection and sharing of intelligence, deployment of Army and Central Para Military Forces, financial assistance to the North-Eastern States for modernisation/strengthening of State Police Forces and diplomatic initiatives with neighbouring countries.

[Translation]

Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant

*169. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Ramagundam fertilizer plant shut down", appearing in 'The Pioneer', dated September 9, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the production work ceased in the plant due to the non-availability of coal;

(c) if so, the quantum of loss in the production as a result thereof and the number of days for which the production work was ceased; and

(d) the measures taken for ensuring regular supply of coal to the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The plant was shutdown from 21.8.1996 to 18.9.1996 for want of coal. The production activities started on 19.9.1996 and the normal production was resumed on 25.9.1996. There was a production loss of about 35,000 tonnes of Urea on account of non-availability of coal. As a result of close coordination with the Government of A.P. and the SCCL, the supply of coal to the plant has improved.

[English]

Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited

*170. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the studies carried out by the Government/experts established that the gas based Namrup Unit of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited can be turned around into an economically viable unit;

(b) whether segregation of this unit from other units at Haldia, Durgapur etc. is considered to be an essential prerequisite for its restoration to a viable unit; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided to restructure HFC and go ahead with the bifurcation of Namrup unit as a separate corporate unit without waiting for the final recommendation of BIFR in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Technical studies have confirmed the techno-economic viability of a modest revamp of the Namrup units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) to take care of the critical and trouble prone equipment with a view to achieving higher capacity utilisation and economy in plant operations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No decision has been taken to segregate the Namrup units with a view to formulating a revival package independent of other units of HFC.

HFC as a company was declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The ultimate decision on the revival of the company, including its Namrup units would depend upon the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi judicial authority.

Social Forestry Projects

*171. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the social forestry projects in all the States have had negative growth after introduction of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve performance under the social forestry projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Annual targets are fixed for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme in two parts: the first is for seedlings distribution for planting on private lands and the second is in terms of area for public lands, including forest lands. The plantations undertaken as part of social forestry are included therein.

The targets and achievements for both seedlings distribution and area coverage have shown a downward trend from 1989 onwards. This is essentially because of inadequate availability of funds for the sector. There has also been a decline in the fund flow from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for tree plantation activity in this period.

The Government have been encouraging cost effective measures by way of the increased participation by local communities in forestry projects and through joint forest management.